

Canyon Creek Cabinet Company

Recipient of the EPA Evergreen Millennium
Award for Pollution Prevention

Fact Sheet



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 10

December 2000

EPA recognizes Canyon Creek Cabinet Company, Monroe Washington for environmental excellence and leadership in pollution prevention. Canyon Creek uses innovative techniques to reduce air emissions, waste generation and energy use and has demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement of its environmental performance.

Canyon Creek Cabinet's employs about 450 workers at its 196,000 sq. ft. manufacturing plant in Monroe which they occupied in January 1998. It is one of the largest kitchen and bath cabinet manufacturers in the west coast. Canyon Creek worked diligently to design-in pollution prevention features in their new facility.

Canyon Creek produces kitchen cabinets but also cabinets for baths, home offices, family rooms, libraries and media rooms. More information about Canyon Creek Cabinets products and philosophy is available on the WEB at www.canyoncreek.com.

Pollution Prevention Success

Air Emissions. Canyon Creek has dramatically reduced emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in their operation.

Through close work with their supplier, Akzo Nobel Coatings, Inc. Canyon Creek has developed a "state-of-the art" water borne finishing system that allows the facility to operate well below regulatory limits without compromising on the quality and appearance of their products. Canyon Creek continues to seek environmental improvements through

implementation of a water-based seal coat process which will further reduce air emissions.

Canyon Creek's finishing system is unique, state of the art and unequalled in the kitchen cabinet industry.

Solid Waste. Canyon Creek has eliminated wood scraps from their solid waste disposal stream by chipping them and sending them out to be used in the production of particleboard and other wood products. This practice greatly reduced the volume and cost of disposal of this material.

Canyon Creek also source separates their scrap and maintains a program which tracks and evaluates the volume and cost of waste generated by each department. This tracking allows Canyon Creek to quickly identify opportunities for improvement and savings.

Hazardous Waste. Canyon Creek has reduced hazardous waste on several fronts:

- by replacing rather than refinishing flawed parts;
- by having their supplier formulate their stains (rather than mix them in house); and
- by switching from a solvent to a water



solution to clean catalyzed lines.
Water Discharges. The water solution described above is neutralized and discharged to the community wastewater treatment plant, per local and State guidelines.

Energy Conservation. Canyon Creek participates in the Climate Wise program. Their Climate Wise action plan has several energy conservation strategies that they implement. Canyon Creek is exploring new ways that they can reduce electricity and natural gas usage through process improvements.

Commitment to Environmental Quality

Canyon Creek Cabinet Company's is committed to a zero waste philosophy. That philosophy is demonstrated in their written policies including a Pollution Prevention Plan and, more recently, an Environmental Management System (EMS) and through their

continuous efforts to evaluate and improve environmental performance in their day-to-day operations.

The company's mission reflects these ideals:

To build a company that is a partner with the community, leading in health, safety and environmental responsibility through world class processes and zero waste philosophy.

Environmental Leadership

Canyon Creek has demonstrated environmental leadership through work with their supplier, Akzo Nobel, to develop new finishes that are much more friendly to the environment. Their work is unequalled in the kitchen cabinet industry.

Canyon Creek honored with the Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention in 1999.

For more information about Canyon Creek Cabinet's environmental program call John Earl, Environmental Manager at 206-674-4992 or, toll-free at 1-800-228-1830 ext. 4992.



The Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention

EPA's Evergreen Award recognizes outstanding pollution prevention efforts within all sectors of the greater Pacific Northwest business community.

For more information about EPA Region 10's
Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention contact:

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on the WEB at www.epa.gov/r10earth/evergreenaward.htm